



**"Called By Name" - April 5, 2026**  
**Sermon by Pastor Ruthie Seiders**

## **Group Leader Notes**

What would it feel like to hear Jesus call your name? In this Easter message, Pastor Ruthie Seiders (Central Ministries Pastor) shares the powerful story of Mary Magdalene in —a moment where grief turns to joy when the risen Jesus speaks her name. Easter isn't just a story we retell every year—it's a reminder that Jesus knows you personally, loves you deeply, and calls you by name. In a world where it's easy to feel unseen or forgotten, this message invites you to rediscover the truth that you are fully known and truly loved by God. Whether you're exploring faith or returning to a familiar story with fresh eyes, this message offers hope, identity, and a new beginning.

## **Main Scripture Reading: John 20:11-18**

## **Group Discussion**

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Pastor Ruthie emphasizes the idea that God knows us personally by name.** How does that concept challenge or change the way you see your relationship with God?
2. **Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Jesus at first, but everything changed when He spoke her name.** Why do you think hearing her name made such a difference, and how might that apply to your own faith journey?
3. **Pastor Ruthie suggests that many people long to be "fully known and truly loved."** Where do you see that longing show up in your own life or in the world around you?
4. **Reflect on a time when you felt truly seen, known, or understood by someone.** How does that experience help you understand God's love more deeply?
5. **Pastor Ruthie invites us to consider how we would respond if Jesus called our name.** What do you think your honest response would be—and why?

## ***Let's Pray***

<https://youtu.be/MYoKJfsprZk?si=shqQ78-kJqNpl9LH>

